

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process unit comprising:

an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier, which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing;

a first image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a first side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

a second image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a second side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller, which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing;

a first developer unit holder cover configured to hold a first side surface portion of the developer unit;

a second developer unit holder cover configured to hold a second side surface portion of the developer unit;

~~an aligning device including a recess portion formed in one of the holder covers of the image carrier unit and the developer unit, and a projecting portion formed on the other holder cover, which fit with the recess portion, and configured to align the image carrier unit with respect to the developer unit as the recess portion and the projecting portion are fit with each other; and~~

first and second projecting members arranged at the first and second image carrier unit holder covers, respectively;

25 first and second recess portions formed in the first and
 second developer unit holder covers, respectively, wherein the
 first projecting member is engaged with the first recess portion
 and the second projecting member is engaged with the second
 recess portion by moving the projecting members with respect to
 the recess portions along a longitudinal direction of the image
 carrier unit and the developer unit; and

30 ~~a~~ at least one fixation tool configured to fix ~~the engaged~~
 ~~recess portion and projecting portion together~~ at least one of:
 the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and the
 second projecting member to the second recess portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A process unit comprising:

an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier,
which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing;

5 a first image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a
 first side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

a second image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a
 second side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller,
which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing;

10 a first developer unit holder cover configured to hold a
 side surface portion of the developer unit;

a second developer unit holder cover configured to hold a second side surface portion of the developer unit;

15 first and second projecting members arranged at the first and second image carrier unit holder covers, respectively;

first and second recess portions formed in the first and second developer unit holder covers, respectively, wherein the first projecting member is engaged with the first recess portion and the second projecting member is engaged with the second
20 recess portion by moving the projecting members with respect to the recess portions along a longitudinal direction of the image carrier unit and the developer unit;

at least one fixation tool configured to fix at least one of: the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and
25 the second projecting member to the second recess portion;

an electric charger device provided in the image carrier unit and configured to charge a surface of the image carrier;

an aligning portion configured to align the electric charger device within the ~~imager~~ image carrier unit;

30 a cover member detachably mounted on the image carrier unit and configured to cover an opposite side of ~~an~~ the electric charger device with respect to the image carrier; ~~side of the charger device;~~ and

an urging member provided on the cover member and configured
35 to hold the electric charger device by urging it with pressure in ~~the~~ an aligning portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A process unit according to claim 2, wherein the urging member ~~is~~ comprises plate springs which ~~pressurize~~ apply pressure to both end portions of the charger device.

4. (Currently Amended) A process unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing;~~

5 ~~a holder cover configured to hold a side surface portion of the image carrier unit;~~

~~a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing;~~

10 ~~a holder cover configured to hold a side surface portion of the developer unit; and~~

~~a~~ at least one support tool which is mounted on at least one of the first and second image carrier unit holder ~~cover of the image carrier unit~~ covers from an outer side thereof, and which is configured to pierce through the at least one image carrier unit holder cover and the casing so as to rotatably support a center of at least one end ~~portions~~ portion of the image carrier, ~~while being pierced through the holder cover and the casing.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A process unit according to claim 1,
further comprising:

~~an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier
which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing,~~

5 ~~a holder cover configured to hold a side surface portion of
the image carrier unit,~~

~~a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller
which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing,~~

10 ~~a holder cover configured to hold a side surface portion of
the developer unit,~~

a cleaning member provided in the image carrier unit and
configured to remove a remaining portion of a developing agent
left over on the image carrier after transfer of a developer
image formed on the image carrier;

15 a cleaning member support tool configured to support both
end portions of the cleaning member with respect to the casing of
the image carrier unit; and

20 a cover member which is detachably mounted on the image
carrier unit, and which is provided with a holder piece on an
inner surface side, ~~which holds~~ thereof to hold and apply with
pressure to the support tool of the cleaning member.

6. (New) A process unit according to claim 2, further comprising:

at least one support tool which is mounted on at least one of the first and second image carrier unit holder covers from an outer side thereof, and which is configured to pierce through the at least one image carrier unit holder cover and the casing so as to rotatably support a center of at least one end portion of the image carrier.

7. (New) A process unit according to claim 2, further comprising:

a cleaning member provided in the image carrier unit and configured to remove a remaining portion of a developing agent left over on the image carrier after transfer of a developer image formed on the image carrier; and

a cleaning member support tool configured to support both end portions of the cleaning member with respect to the casing of the image carrier unit;

wherein the cover member that is detachably mounted on the image carrier unit is provided with a holder piece on an inner surface side thereof to hold and apply pressure to the support tool of the cleaning member.

8. (New) A process unit according to claim 4, wherein the image carrier unit comprises a flange having a through hole, the support tool member comprises a pin portion which is insertable in the through hole of the flange such that the support tool member and the image carrier are engaged with each other, and the image carrier is movable diagonally downwards from the image carrier unit after the support tool member is detached from the image carrier.

9. (New) A process unit according to claim 6, wherein the image carrier unit comprises a flange having a through hole, the support tool member comprises a pin portion which is insertable in the through hole of the flange such that the support tool member and the image carrier are engaged with each other, and the image carrier is movable diagonally downwards from the image carrier unit after the support tool member is detached from the image carrier.

10. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

(i) a process unit removably provided therein, said process unit comprising:

an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier, which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing;

a first image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a first side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

10 a second image carrier unit holder cover configured to hold a second side surface portion of the image carrier unit;

a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller, which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing;

15 a first developer unit holder cover configured to hold a first side surface portion of the developer unit;

a second developer unit holder cover configured to hold a second side surface portion of the developer unit;

first and second projecting members arranged at the first and second image carrier unit holder covers, respectively;

20 first and second recess portions formed in the first and second developer unit holder covers, respectively, wherein the first projecting member is engaged with the first recess portion and the second projecting member is engaged with the second recess portion by moving the projecting members with respect to the recess portions along a longitudinal direction of the image carrier unit and the developer unit; and

25 at least one fixation tool configured to fix at least one of: the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and the second projecting member to the second recess portion;
30 and

(ii) a fixing unit configured to fix to a sheet material a developer image that has been transferred onto the sheet material.

11. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the process unit further comprises:

at least one support tool which is mounted on at least one of the first and second image carrier unit holder covers from an outer side thereof, and which is configured to pierce through the at least one image carrier unit holder cover and the casing so as to rotatably support a center of at least one end portion of the image carrier.

12. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the process unit further comprises:

a cleaning member provided in the image carrier unit and configured to remove a remaining portion of a developing agent left over on the image carrier after transfer of the developer image from on the image carrier;

a cleaning member support tool configured to support both end portions of the cleaning member with respect to the casing of the image carrier unit; and

a cover member which is detachably mounted on the image carrier unit, and which is provided with a holder piece on an

inner surface side thereof to hold and apply pressure to the support tool of the cleaning member.

13. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the image carrier unit comprises a flange having a through hole, the support tool member comprises a pin portion which is insertable in the through hole of the flange such that the support tool member and the image carrier are engaged with each other, and the image carrier is movable diagonally downwards from the image carrier unit after the support tool member is detached from the image carrier.

14. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the process unit further comprises:

an electric charger device provided in the image carrier unit and configured to charge a surface of the image carrier;

an aligning portion configured to align the electric charger device within the image carrier unit;

a cover member detachably mounted on the image carrier unit and configured to cover an opposite side of the electric charger device with respect to the image carrier; and

an urging member provided on the cover member and configured to hold the electric charger device by urging it with pressure in an aligning portion.

15. (New) A process unit according to claim 2, wherein the electric charger is removable from the image carrier unit after the cover member is detached from the image carrier unit, while the first and second projecting members are engaged with the first and second recess portions and while the at least one fixation tool is fixing the at least one of: the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and the second projecting member to the second recess portion.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the electric charger is removable from the image carrier unit after the cover member is detached from the image carrier unit, while the first and second projecting members are engaged with the first and second recess portions and while the at least one fixation tool is fixing the at least one of: the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and the second projecting member to the second recess portion.